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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-Hour Report

16 August 2016

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Suspected Arsonist Arrested in Lake County Fire

(U) Lower Lake – County officials arrested a Clearlake man on 15 August on 17 counts of arson related to numerous fires — including the 4,000-acre Clayton Fire that has so far claimed 175 buildings and displaced hundreds of people. County Sheriff Brian Martin and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Chief Ken Pimlott announced the arrest of Damin Pashilk, 40, at a community meeting of about 200 people at a casino doubling as a Red Cross shelter south of the blaze. SOURCE: 16 August 2016, SF Gate

(U) Orange County Resident Accused of Trying to Kill Two Police Officers

(U) Santa Ana – A 19-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of trying to kill two Santa Ana police officers, authorities said on 14 August. The officers responded to a call and came upon a man armed with a pistol. The man, later identified as Oscar Freddie Torres, a documented gang member, fired "multiple times in the direction of the officers," police said. The officers were not struck and did not return fire. Torres allegedly fled and was later detained at his home, then booked on two counts of attempted murder of a police officer.

SOURCE: 14 August 2016, Los Angeles Times

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Hacker Claims To Be Selling Stolen NSA Spy Tools

(U) Washington DC – On 13 August, a load of computer code, whose purpose is to break into other computers, was leaked to the public by an anonymous entity called "The Shadow Brokers." The same mysterious entity also promised an upcoming "cyber weapons auction", the digital equivalent to putting stolen military missiles up for sale. The gang claims the stolen hacking tools were developed by "the Equation Group", a spying entity widely thought to be the US National Security Agency and spying departments from four international allies: Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Together, that group is called the "Five Eyes." Computer security experts worldwide now worry that sensitive NSA spying tools are accessible to common criminal hackers.

SOURCE: 15 August 2016, CNN

(U) New York – Suspect Charged with Murder of Imam and Assistant Due in Court

(U) New York City – Oscar Morel, 35, of the borough of Brooklyn was due in court today to be charged with second-degree murder in the deaths of a Muslim imam and his assistant who were gunned down in New York over the weekend, police said. Police said there was no known connection between Morel and the murder victims and a motive has not been determined.

SOURCE: 16 August 2016, Reuters

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(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Bosnia - Authorities Arrest Alleged ISIL Recruiter

(U) Zvornik – Bosnian authorities say they have arrested Nedzad Mujic who is suspected of recruiting members for ISIL. The prosecution office said Mujic is also believed to have fought for the group in Syria. Mujic was arrested near the northeastern town of Zvornik and is under investigation for financing terrorist activities and organizing terrorist groups.

SOURCE: 16 August 2016, Associated Press

(U) England-Radical UK Preacher Guilty of Inviting Support for ISIL

(U) London – Anjem Choudary, Britain's most high-profile Islamist preacher whose followers have been linked to numerous militant plots across the world, has been found guilty of inviting support for ISIL. Choudary, 49, was convicted at London's Old Bailey court of using online lectures and messages to encourage support for the banned group which controls large parts of Syria and Iraq. Prosecutors said that in postings on social media, Choudary and his close associate Mizanur Rahman, 33, had sought to validate the "caliphate" declared by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and said Muslims had a duty to obey or provide support to him.

SOURCE: 16 August 2016, Reuters

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Mexico – Son of Drug Lord 'El Chapo' Could Be Among Kidnapped

(U) Puerto Vallarta – A son of Mexican drug lord Joaquin "Chapo" Guzman could be among a group of people kidnapped from a restaurant in the Pacific Mexican tourist resort of Puerto Vallarta, the state attorney general said today. A group of six or seven people suspected to be members of Guzman's feared Sinaloa Cartel were abducted by eight armed men from an upscale eatery in the heart of the resort yesterday. Puerto Vallarta, in the state of Jalisco, is one of Mexico's top vacation destinations, attracting all-inclusive tourists to its beaches. Jalisco, which lies south along the Pacific coast from Sinaloa, is home to the Jalisco New Generation cartel, which has become one of the country's most powerful drug gangs in recent years.

SOURCE: 16 August 2016, Reuters

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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